

I am writing to comments to the FCC about E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. E-Rate has been very important to Lawrence County Schools in Alabama because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, communicate and collaborate, and develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with Lawrence County Schools' current bandwidth needs. Without E-rate we would not be able to fund the bandwidth we now have. We desperately need more E-rate funding to increase bandwidth to a level that will assure adequate access to networked and internet resources. I urge you to raise the E-Rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.